AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 18, 19, 23, 24, 26-28, and 34, as indicated below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling distribution of media contents over a network, wherein said contents ~~are~~ comprise distributed ~~by making said~~ contents available at surrogate servers and remaining contents that are not available at the surrogate servers, comprising the steps of:

identifying ~~additional~~ contents eligible for distribution from the remaining contents;

defining a set of categories;

identifying for each category at least a reference content;

associating said ~~additional~~ identified contents with said predefined categories based on semantics affinity with said reference content, said semantics affinity being calculated as the distance of each of said ~~additional~~ identified contents to said at least a reference content;

selecting at least one of said predefined categories; and

making at least one of the ~~additional~~ identified contents associated with said selected predefined category available for distribution at said surrogate servers.

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein said step of calculating said semantics affinity as the distance of each of said ~~additional~~ identified contents to said at least a reference content comprises the step of:

involving the use of data mining [[/]] or artificial intelligence mechanisms.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein said mechanisms comprise at least a mechanism selected from neural networks, fuzzy logic and decision trees.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein said step of identifying for each category at least a reference content comprises the step of using search engines.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein said step of identifying for each category at least a reference content comprises the steps of:

identifying a set of reference contents by using search engines; and

calculating a central reference content of said set of reference contents.

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein said step of. associating said ~~additional~~ identified contents to said predefined categories based on semantics affinity with said reference content, comprises the steps of:

identifying ~~contents already~~ the distributed contents; and

associating each of said distributed ~~content~~ contents with said predefined categories based on semantics affinity with said reference content, said semantics affinity being calculated as the distance of each of said distributed contents to said at least a reference content.

24. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 23, comprising the steps of:

storing the classification of said distributed contents in a first database; and

storing the classification of said ~~additional~~ identified contents in a second database.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein said step of selecting at least one of said predefined categories comprises the steps of:

defining an interest threshold representative at least of a frequency of user requests for a given content; and

extracting from said first database category information comprising at least one predefined category associated with said given content when said interest threshold is exceeded.

26. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein said step of making at least one of the ~~additional~~ identified contents associated with said selected predefined category available for distribution at said surrogate servers comprises the step of:

extracting from said second database contents information related to said at least one ~~additional~~ identified content.

27. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24 comprising the steps of:

identifying ~~additional~~ identified information comprising at least usage information provided by said surrogate servers;

matching said additional information with said category information provided by said first database;

generating at least one class template comprising said matched information;

adding to said class template said contents information provided by said second database; and

forwarding said at least one modified class template to a distribution system.

28. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 27 wherein said step of adding to said class template said contents information provided by said second database comprises the steps of:

accessing a class~~/policy~~ template repository; and

modifying said class template according to said content information

29. (Withdrawn) A system for controlling distribution of media contents over a network, comprising a set of surrogate servers for distributing said contents, by making said contents available at said surrogate servers, said system comprising at least:

a class matcher module configured for:

receiving as input information at least usage information provided by said surrogate servers, category information provided by a first database storing a classification in predefined categories of said distributed contents, and a predefined interest threshold, said predefined interest threshold being representative at least of a frequency of the request for a given content belonging to a given category;

matching with each other said input information so as to generate a class template comprising said input information, when said predefined interest threshold is exceeded;

a class/policy template repository having a first input for receiving said class template and a second input for adding to said class template content information provided by a second database storing a classification in said predefined categories of additional contents, said content

information comprising at least information on an additional content included in said given category; and

a command generator to generate control signals from said modified class template, said control signals being able to control a distribution system in order to make available said at least an additional content at said surrogate servers.

30. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 29, wherein said usage information comprises at least a usage information selected from:

the share for a content in a given geographic area;

the trend of requests during a given time period;

data on users requesting a given content;

statistics concerning those contents most frequently requested;

specific information concerning the most requested content from a given cache server; and

meta-data for any specific requested contents.

31. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 29, wherein said control system is associated with a processing system comprising a semantic extracted module configured for:

receiving as inputs:

said distributed contents;

said additional contents;

said predefined categories; and

at least a reference content identified for each category;

classifying each distributed content/additional content in at least one category, said classification of each of said distributed contents/additional contents being based on semantics

affinity among said reference content and each of said distributed content/additional contents, said semantics affinity being calculated as the distance of each of said distributed content/additional content to said at least a reference content; and

storing said classification of said distributed contents in said first database and said classification of said additional contents in said second database.

32. (Withdrawn) A method for controlling distribution of media contents over a network, comprising a set of surrogate servers for distributing said contents, by making said contents available at said surrogate servers, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving input information comprising at least usage information provided by said surrogate servers, category information provided by a first database storing a classification in predefined categories of said distributed contents, and a predefined interest threshold, said predefined interest threshold being representative at least of a frequency of the request for a given content belonging to a given category;

matching with each other said input information so as to generate a class template comprising said input information, when' said predefined interest threshold is exceeded;

adding to said class template content information provided by a second database storing a classification in said predefined categories of additional contents, said content information comprising at least information on an additional content included in said given category; and

generating control signals from said modified class template, said control signals being able to control a distribution system in order to make available said at least an additional content at said surrogate servers.

33. (Withdrawn) A network comprising a set of surrogate servers for distributing media contents, wherein said contents are distributed by making these contents available at said surrogate servers, comprising a control system according to claim 29.

34. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium encoded with a computer program product loadable ~~in the~~ into a memory of at least one computer, the computer program product ~~and~~ comprising software code portions ~~capable of~~ for performing the ~~steps~~ method of claim 18.